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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT The Polish Army

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### 25X1 PPR's Domination of the Army

- 25X1 1. The BP PPR regards the Polish Army as a party instrument. It maintains its control of the Army by filling top echelons with officers who are susceptible to party influence. The ideal general, from the BP point of view, is a man without independence, ambition, or specific capabilities as a leader. Such a man is less likely to rebel against PPR authority, or to enlist subordinate officers in a concerted attack upon the PPR or the UB. General Berling, commander of the Kosciuszko Division in 1944-5, was relieved of his command because he was independent, well-liked by his troops, and antagonistic toward the PPR and the UB. Marshal Zymierski, Commander in Chief of the Polish Army, is neither liked by his troops nor by the nation. He is, however, a perfect tool for the PPR which elevated him to his command and relies upon his grateful subservience.
2. The ranks of the Polish Army are recruited largely from the farms. As the peasant masses are generally anti-PPR, that party's control of the Army must be exercised through monopoly of top commands, either by PPR members or by Soviet Army officers. Jacob Gorman, Secretary of the P, stated that "...we will keep Soviet personnel in all places where there is even a shadow of doubt about the loyalty of higher officers." The following data regarding the location, composition, etc., of various Polish Army units show a preponderance of Soviet officers in ranking positions.

### Polish Army Units

#### 3. 1069 Artillery Regiment --- Krakow

- (a) Organization: Two line battalions and one supply battalion. Each of the line battalions comprises three batteries of three companies each. One of the battalions has a howitzer battery. The supply battalion contains the commanding officer's company, a communications company, medical, ordnance, and quartermaster units, and an officer for education and politics.

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-2-

- (b) Armament: 105mm howitzers and 76mm guns, both types of Soviet manufacture. The 76mm guns are modern, have automatic locks, fire 20 rounds per minute, and resemble pre-1939 Polish anti-tank guns. The howitzers are obsolete.
  - (c) Strength: 660 officers and men. The commanding officer is a "very cautious pre-war colonel." Only two of the remaining officers were commissioned before 1939; the others are former non-commissioned officers and cadets. Eighty percent of the regiment's non-commissioned officers are illiterate. The regiment contains no Soviet citizens, but one officer and two non-commissioned officers are reportedly paid by the USSR.
  - (d) Organisational Vehicles: 44 motor transports and two light cars.
4. 6th Armored Battalion -- Krakow: Battalion headquarters were recently transferred from Rakowicka Street to #1 Pedchorazyh Street.
    - (a) Chief of Intelligence -- Maj Majtszak
    - (b) Chief of Physical Training -- Capt Mutiev (Soviet, presently in the USSR)
    - (c) Intelligence Officer -- Lt Bernacki (Soviet)
  5. 13th Engineer Battalion -- Krakow: Attached to the 2867 Infantry Division as divisional engineers.
    - (a) Commanding Officer -- Capt Klak
    - (b) Executive Officer -- Lt Wojewoda
  6. 2nd Air Force Regiment -- APO 457, Krakow.
    - (a) Commanding Officer -- Col Korzenwnikow (Soviet)
    - (b) Chief of Staff -- Capt Czak
    - (c) Adviser to Chief of Staff -- Maj Tomaszewski
    - (d) Strength -- 800 men
    - (e) Armament -- 30 anti-aircraft guns, JAK-9 type; two 20mm cannon; 12mm machine guns.
  7. 27th Infantry Regiment -- Number 2829, Klodzko: Three companies of the regiment were detached recently to fight the UPA in eastern Poland. Regimental troops are young boys still in the trainee stage.
    - (a) Commanding Officer -- Maj Zygmunt Chuszcak
    - (b) Political Deputy -- Maj Larkowski (Soviet)
    - (c) Intelligence Officer -- Capt Siwkow (Soviet)
    - (d) Strength -- Two battalions of approximately 600 men each.
  8. 28th Infantry Regiment -- Jaroslawa: Col Zwelinski, Commanding Officer, was transferred recently because he stated during a parade, "Do not fear that we are Red; give us a helping hand." Three companies of the regiment, which had been stationed in Lubaczow under the command of Capt Kusewicz, left recently for an undetermined destination. They were replaced by the 8th Regiment of the Pomeranian Division.
  9. 8th Tank Regiment -- Tarnow:
    - (a) Commanding Officer -- Col Michalowski
    - (b) Political Deputy -- Maj Madej
    - (c) Chief of Staff -- Lt Col Smeredenko (Soviet)

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10. 1st Warsaw Engineer Regiment -- Number 2697, Brzeg. It is active in clearing the district of mines. Its supply, finance, ordnance, and transport officers are Poles.
  - (a) Commanding Officer -- Lt Col Zarczynski (Soviet)
  - (b) Deputy Commanding Officer -- Lt Col Kluczynski
  - (c) Political Deputy -- Capt Bojnal (Jewish)
  - (d) Educational Officer -- Lt Abstei (Jewish)
  - (e) Chief of Staff -- Maj Miedwiediew (Soviet)
  - (f) Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations -- Maj Droling (Soviet)
  - (g) Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy -- 2nd Lt Szlachetankowski
  - (h) Quartermaster -- Capt Misiura
  - (i) Intelligence Officer -- (rank unknown) Romanov (Soviet -- left the regiment 30 May 47)
  - (j) Strength -- 52 officers, 26 professional non-commissioned officers, 79 non-commissioned officers, 672 men.
11. 5th District Motor Pool -- Krakow, 81 Grzegorzewska Street, Unit Number 2324:
  - (a) Commanding Officer -- Capt Strasser (Jewish)
  - (b) Deputy -- Lt Styrylski
12. 5th District Truck Company -- Krakow, Number 4816:
  - (a) Commanding Officer -- Capt Konopka
  - (b) Deputy -- Lt Bryginowicz
  - (c) Political Deputy -- Lt Smietanka
  - (d) Strength -- 180 men
  - (e) Vehicles -- Approximately 120 cars of all types.
13. 5th Anti-tank Battalion -- Jaworzno: Reported as scheduled for transfer to Krakow.
14. DOW 4 (Dowództwo Okręgu Wojskowego -- Military District Command) -- Wrocław: DOW 4's area includes an underground explosive dump, located four kilometers southwest of Zielonka village in Brzeg District. The dump occupies approximately 12 hectares and is accessible by motor road. On 10 May 47 a DOW 4 car, loaded with bombs, passed through Wrocław on its way to Jelenia Góra.
15. DOW 5 -- Krakow:
  - (a) Quartermaster -- Col Gronowski (Soviet)
  - (b) Chief, Motor Transport Section -- Col Drogan (Soviet)
16. 11th WOP (Frontier Guard) -- Kłodzko: A part of the 14th Sudecka Infantry Division. Half of the 11th WOP's officers are Soviet. Its communications company is composed entirely of Soviet troops.
  - (a) Commanding Officer -- Lt Col Michniewicz (Soviet)
  - (b) Political Deputy -- Lt Col Kaczmarek

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-4-

Polish Army Operations in Soviet Territory

17. The following incident lends credibility to unconfirmed reports that Polish Army units have been employed against the UPA in Soviet territory. Shortly after Gen Swieroszewski's death, large columns of Polish troops from the Poznan Divisions passed eastward through Krosno toward the Soviet frontier. It was officially announced that the troops would be used against the UPA. Convoys were guarded closely by the UB and MD, and not even railroad employees were permitted to approach the cars. The troops disappeared completely as far as further identification on Polish soil is concerned. The general assumption is that they continued on into Soviet territory.

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